



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
ہم سے ابو ایمنان نے بیان کیا کہ ہم کو شعیب نے خبر دی کہ ہم سے ابو ابراہیم نے بیان کیا، ان سے عرض نے اور ان سے ابو ہریرہ رضی اللہ عنہ بیان کیا کہ رسول اللہ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا تم امت کے دن اللہ کے نزدیک سب سے بدترین نام اس کا ہو گا جو اپنے ملک (کشپشہ) کہے۔
(صحیح بخاری، حدیث نمبر 6205)

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Israeli forces kill Palestinian family, call them 'dogs'
Israeli forces killed a Palestinian father, mother, and two of their children as they drove in the illegally occupied West Bank on Sunday. Ali Khaled Bani Odeh, 37, his 35-year-old wife Waad, and two of their children, Mohammad and Othman, aged 5 and 7 respectively, were each shot in the head in the village of Tammun, while two of their other children sustained injuries.



No truth in reports that Junaid Safdar is in Vienna, says Sharif family

Rubbishing reports doing rounds on social media, the spokesman for the Sharif family on Sunday said that Junaid Safdar, son of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, had not gone to Vienna. In a statement, the spokesman said that Junaid was at his home in Raiwind along with his wife.

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Dark weather

ISLAMABAD: Commuters on the way at road during dark clouds hovering over the city, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online

Five Indian Proxy Terrorists Eliminated in Lakki Marwat Operation



City Desk

RAWALPINDI: On 15 March 2026, Security Forces conducted an intelligence based operation in Lakki Marwat District, on reported presence of khwarij belonging to Indian Proxy, Fitna al Khwarij.

During the conduct of operation, own troops effectively engaged the Khwarij location and after an intense fire exchange, five Khwarij were sent to hell.

Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from killed Indian sponsored Khwarij, who

remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities in the area.

Sanitization operation is being conducted to eliminate any other Indian-sponsored kharij found in the area, as the relentless Counter Terrorism campaign under vision "Azam-e-Istehkam" (as approved by the Federal Apex Committee on National Action Plan) by Security Forces and Law Enforcement Agencies of Pakistan will continue at full pace to wipe out the menace of foreign-sponsored and supported terrorism from the country.

PM directs strict monitoring of food supply and demand

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday directed authorities to ensure complete monitoring of supply and demand of food items to safeguard national food requirements.

Chairing a meeting to review the country's food situation and the export of surplus food items in light of the changing regional situation, the prime minister was briefed that Pakistan currently had sufficient stocks of food commodities and there was no shortage of any essential item in the country.

The prime minister said disruptions in global supply

chains had created increased opportunities for Pakistani products in regional markets. He directed that special attention should be given to meeting the food requirements of Gulf countries while ensuring their food security.

PM Shehbaz Sharif instructed the relevant authorities to formulate a comprehensive strategy for exporting surplus food items to Gulf countries without affecting domestic food needs. He also emphasized that high quality standards must be ensured in the export of food products to friendly Gulf states.

The prime minister directed the Pakistan National Shipping Corporation to take neces-



sary steps to facilitate the export of food items to Gulf countries through sea routes.

The meeting was informed

about the current stocks and production of food items in the country. Officials said Pakistan's agricultural sector, including

crops, meat, poultry, dairy and seafood, has significant export potential.

The prime minister directed the formation of a committee to review the situation on a daily basis. He also instructed Pakistan's ambassadors and trade officers posted in Gulf countries to remain active in promoting exports.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Federal Ministers Jam Kamal Khan, Rana Tanveer Hussain and Ahsan Iqbal, Special Assistant Haroon Akhtar, senior officials, provincial chief secretaries and representatives of relevant private associations attended the meeting.

Pakistan rejects India's remarks on strikes against militant hideouts in Afghanistan

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office on Sunday flayed the remarks of India's Ministry of External Affairs about Pakistan's legitimate, targeted and precise actions against terrorist hideouts and support bases inside Afghanistan, as 'not only absurd and unwarranted but also shamefully hypocritical.'

Responding to media queries regarding Pakistan's response to the statement issued by the Indian ministry, the Foreign Office spokesperson, Tahir Andrabi, in a press statement, said India's active support and sponsorship of terrorist groups operating from Afghan soil, including Fitna Al Khawarij and Fitna Al Hindustan, are well known.

"Therefore, India's frustration at the destruction of its terrorist franchise in Afghanistan, as reflected in such statements, is quite understandable," he added.

The spokesperson said India, a serial violator of human rights and international law, continued to illegally occupy Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir in violation of the UN Charter and relevant UN Security Council resolutions, and had been responsible for perpetrating state terrorism in the occupied territory.

"Guided by Hindutva extremist ideology, it also continues to marginalise its minorities systematically, spread Islamophobia, and has even weaponised water in contravention of its treaty obligations. India has not only played the role of a spoiler in Afghanistan, but also in the entire region," he added.

684 Afghan combatants & Fitna Al Khawarij killed in operation Ghazab lil-Haq: Atta Tarar

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar said on Sunday that the security forces have killed 684 combatants of the Afghan Taliban regime as well as the Fitna Al Khawarij during Operation Ghazab lil-Haq.

Providing a summary of Afghan Taliban regime and Fitna Al Khawarij's losses at 16:00 hours, the minister said as many as 252 posts of them had been destroyed, while 44 others were 'captured and destroyed' during the operation.

He said that over 912 Afghan operatives were injured during the Operation Ghazab lil-Haq (Righteous Fury).

Around 229 tanks, armoured vehicles, and artillery guns have also been destroyed during the operation, he added.

The minister noted that around 73 terrorists and terrorist support infrastructure locations across Afghanistan effectively targeted by air

On night March 14/15 Pakistan Armed Forces targeted military installations including terrorist hideouts of Afghan Taliban and Fitna al-Khawarij, he said, adding technical support infrastructure and equipment storage facility in Kandahar has been destroyed in these attacks.

He said those facility and infrastructure were being used by Afghan Taliban and terrorists against innocent Pakistani civilians.

A tunnel that housed technical equipment of Afghan Taliban and Fitna al-Khawarij was also destroyed in Kandahar, Atta Tarar said. Similarly, in Chitral Sector, a terrorist jump of point at Badini Post of Afghanistan was destroyed through ground forces.

The minister, in his detailed post on X, also shared a video that show precision engagement by Pakistan on those installations and terrorist camps which directly / indirectly support terrorism from Afghan soil.

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PPP Primacy Rooted in Serving the Downtrodden, Says Azad Kashmir Prime Minister

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Faisal Mumtaz Rathore has said that the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) believes in serving the people and to raise their standard of living. He said this while speaking to a delegation led by the PPP Azad Kashmir Rawalpindi City President Raja Sultan Salahuddin that called on him here today. He said that the PPP is the only political party that enjoys a strong support of the people at grassroots level particularly among the downtrodden and less privileged section of the society. He said that it was Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Benazir who gave voice to these voiceless. "Shaheed Bhutto's decision to grant passports to ordinary citizens upset many bigwigs and landlords. However, this landmark policy empowered common Pakistanis, enabling them to seek employment abroad—particularly in the Middle East—and improve their economic prospects", the pm remarked. Term-



ing the PPP a party of martyrs, the prime minister said that party workers must work hard to ensure the victory of PPP candidates in the upcoming elections. He observed that the politics of reconciliation promoted by President

Ali Zardari strengthened democracy in the country and democratic continuity has strengthened Pakistan's political system since 2008. He expressed the hope that under Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's leadership, the PPP would secure

a majority and form the government in the future. The delegation included Secretary General Raja Abdul Rauf, Senior Vice President Daniyal Raza Khan, Vice President Amjad Butt, and others.

Faryal Talpur Condemns Smear Campaign Targeting AfJK Leadership

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Chairperson of Political Affairs Ms. Faryal Talpur strongly condemning the allegations of defamation, character assassination and intellectual innovation by a certain group against Prime Minister Azad Kashmir



Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore and the party's vibrant central senior leader Chaudhry Riaz, the party has warned that if they do not change their ways, the ideological followers of the PPP know very well that the honor and respect of their leadership will be protected. Those who interpret the high morals, tolerance, modesty, decency, patience and forbearance of the PPP as weakness will remember the milk of the holiday. With successive humiliations and retreats in politics, the defeated classes are in a state of loss of consciousness and they have been infected with the disease of Ms. Faryal Talpur, Faisal Rathore, Chaudhry Riaz phobia. The supporters of Chaudhry Riaz and Faisal Rathore are now forced to fight with difficulty. These views were expressed by the Central Deputy Secretary of Information of the Pakistan Peoples Party Azad Kashmir: Constituency 7 Shaukat Javed Mir, while rejecting the allegations against the party leaders, strongly reacted and said that those who bulldozed the moral, human and social values of President Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari and Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and finally faced defeat and publicly apologized to the President of Pakistan, Red, accountability, exile, slander, bogus cases, and fought against state resources and government machinery. Shaukat Javed Mir said that we cannot give anyone the freedom to slander Pakistan, the Pakistani army and the national security institutions, nor is there any idea of compromising on the ideology of stability. He said that in response to any aggression against Pakistan, the nation is ready to sacrifice its lives by tying shrouds on its heads under the leadership of Chief of Defense Forces Hafiz Syed Asim Munir and Chairman Bilawal Bhutto.

US-Iran tensions: War far from over despite speculation, Warns Masood Khan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador Masood Khan, former President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and former Ambassador of Pakistan to the United States and Permanent Representative to the United Nations, has said that Pakistan is playing a constructive diplomatic role amid the escalating conflict involving Iran, maintaining communication with major capitals including Washington, Tehran and Riyadh to promote dialogue and de-escalation.



Speaking during a television interview on the evolving Middle East crisis, Ambassador Masood Khan stated that although there is speculation that the United States may consider an exit strategy from the conflict with Iran, the war appears far from over. He noted that while President Donald Trump could politically claim victory at any time, signals from the U. S. defence establishment suggest preparations for a prolonged confrontation.

He pointed out that additional military deployments, including naval assets and marine expeditionary forces, indicate that the conflict may intensify rather than conclude quickly. According to Ambassador Masood Khan, the objectives initially set by Washington—such as forcing Iran to surrender or achieving regime change—have not been realised so far. "At the same time, there is mounting international pressure to end the war," he said, noting that global markets have already been affected, with rising oil and gas prices causing economic instability. He also observed that Russia has benefited strategically from the situation, while European countries have expressed concerns because of the broader geopolitical implications, particularly in relation to the war in Ukraine.

World Muslim Congress Cries 'Cultural Genocide' in Kashmir; Demands UN Action Now

GENEVA: Delivering a statement with "grave alarm" at the 61st Session of the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC), Soeaking on behalf of the World Muslim Congress Altaf Hussain Wani Chairman KIIR has called for immediate international intervention in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK), describing the territory as an "open-air prison" where occupation has metastasized into systematic cultural genocide and political erasure.

Speaking under Agenda Item 3 during the General Debate, representative Altaf Hussain Wani detailed a catastrophic human rights situation characterized by the complete suppression of fundamental freedoms. "India has transformed Kashmir into an open-air prison," Wani stated, highlighting the crushing of free expression and peaceful assembly under draconian laws, alongside a suffocating digital siege and pervasive social media surveillance that criminalizes dissent and isolates the population from the world. "This Council cannot remain complicit," Wani emphasized. "We demand immediate international intervention, unrestricted access for Special Procedures, and accountability for these crimes against humanity. Silence is complicity."

The World Muslim Congress urged the international community to move beyond expressions of concern and take concrete steps to address what it termed an ongoing humanitarian catastrophe, insisting that the UNHRC has both the mandate and the moral obligation to ensure accountability for violations in the disputed territory.

Removing the containers

LAHORE: Workers removing heavy shipping containers to open roads around US consulate in the Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

Minister condemns Indian firing after martyrdom of young civilian Hamza Yousuf

Bureau Report

BHIMBER: Government Minister Chaudhry Ali Shan Soni met the father of young Hamza Yousuf, who was martyred in the firing of Indian forces, and expressed deep sorrow and grief. He expressed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and prayed for the elevation of the martyr's ranks and patience for the bereaved family.

A few days ago, innocent civilian Hamza Yousuf was martyred as a result of unprovoked firing by Indian forces in the Samahbani sector of the Line of Control. The young man was unarmed and was near the border area when the Indian forces opened fire, killing him on the spot.

Chaudhry Ali Shan Soni said on this occasion that targeting unarmed civilians is open aggression by the



Indian forces and a serious violation of human rights. He said that the

government shares the grief of the martyr's family and such incidents will be raised before the international community.

He added that targeting innocent civilians is a condemnable act and international organizations should take notice of it. The government minister also assured the family of martyr Hamza Yousuf of all possible cooperation.

Field Marshal's Bold Diplomacy: Averting a Regional Catastrophe

After the assassination of Ali Khamenei in a coordinated U. S.-Israeli strike, the Middle East moved dangerously close to a large-scale war between Iran and the Arab world. Tehran retaliated through Operation True Promise, launching waves of missiles and drones at U. S. bases across the Gulf that were located on Arab soil, drawing countries like Saudi Arabia into the conflict despite not seeking it. Saudi installations such as Prince Sultan Air Base were struck during days of attacks, and anger in Riyadh intensified as the earlier détente with Iran—brokered by China—collapsed. Iran saw the killing of its Supreme Leader as a direct assault on the Islamic Republic and responded by targeting U. S. military infrastructure throughout the Gulf, signaling it would not distinguish between the United States and the Gulf states hosting American forces, thereby putting Saudi energy facilities, refin-

eries, and military sites at risk. As fears grew of a wider sectarian war, international mediation proved ineffective: the United Nations was largely ignored, the United States was itself involved in the conflict, and China's influence could not bridge the divide. Into this vacuum stepped Pakistan, with military leadership under Asim Munir and diplomatic efforts led by Ishaq Dar, who recognized that neither Iran nor Saudi Arabia actually wanted a full war but needed a trusted intermediary to help them de-escalate.

Dar initiated shuttle diplomacy with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, warning that Pakistan's September 2025 Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement with Saudi Arabia obligated both states to treat aggression against one as aggression against both, backed by Pakistan's large military and nuclear deterrent, while also offering mediation by securing a Saudi guarantee that its territory would not be used for U. S. or Israeli attacks on

Iran. Tehran responded positively and asked Pakistan to obtain this assurance, which Dar successfully did, leading Iran to limit its strikes on Saudi Arabia even though attacks, including another strike on Prince Sultan Air Base in early March, continued. Asim Munir then personally traveled to Riyadh, where he was received with high honors and held extensive talks with Saudi Defense Minister Khalid bin Salman and senior military and intelligence officials under the framework of the Joint Strategic Defense Agreement, a formalization of long-standing military cooperation that effectively extends Pakistan's nuclear umbrella to Saudi Arabia. The carefully worded statement afterward acknowledged Iranian attacks while calling Iran a brotherly nation and urging prudence, reflecting Pakistan's

balancing role while coordinating with Riyadh on measures to halt attacks and maintain the de-escalation framework. Continued communication between Pakistani and Iranian military leadership soon produced results: Iranian officials shifted toward engagement, ultimately issuing a formal apology to Saudi Arabia for the attacks and pledging no further strikes on Saudi territory, effectively resetting Iran-



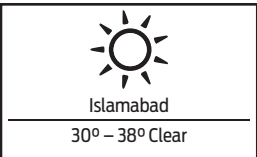
Abdul Basit Alvi

Saudi relations and preventing a wider war. Saudi Arabia saw the apology as validation of its patience and trust in Pakistan, while Iran gained breathing space to avoid a multi-front war against the United States, Israel, and potentially Gulf states. Munir's personal intervention—combining military credibility, strategic vision, and trusted relationships with both sides—was

presented as the key factor that turned diplomacy into a binding agreement, offering Iran a face-saving path to de-escalation while serving Pakistan's interests, protecting Saudi security, and stabilizing the region.

The formal apology from Iran and its binding pledge not to attack Saudi territory have fundamentally transformed the security environment of the Gulf, eliminating the most immediate threat of escalation and creating space for the reconstruction of the Saudi-Iran relationship. This pledge, unlike previous informal understandings, carries the weight of a formal commitment made in the context of a successful mediation, with Pakistan positioned as both guarantor and monitor of its implementation. Should future tensions arise, both sides now know that they have a trusted partner in Islamabad that can be called upon to mediate before disputes spiral out of control. This knowledge itself serves as a powerful deterrent against esca-

lation. This diplomatic victory is a testament to the vision and skill of Field Marshal General Asim Munir, whose personal intervention transformed the trajectory of the entire region. He understood that beneath the missile strikes and the incendiary rhetoric, both Iran and Saudi Arabia retained a fundamental interest in avoiding war. By positioning Pakistan as the intermediary, by leveraging his personal relationships and Pakistan's strategic weight, and by conducting his diplomacy with patience, determination, and strategic clarity, he achieved what the world had dismissed as impossible and saved the region from a catastrophe whose dimensions we can only dimly imagine. This is the legacy of his vision and the gift of Pakistan's leadership to a region that stood on the brink of destruction and was pulled back by the determined, principled, and effective diplomacy of a nation that refuses to accept that war is inevitable and that peace is impossible.



SERVICES
Namaz Timings

Fajr	4:56 am
Zohr	12:17 pm
Asr	4:33 pm
Maghrib	6:15 pm
Isha	7:38 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance	1122 & 4451122
Motorway Police	9266044
Motorway Police	9270601-20

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

ENQUIRY

Edhi Ambulance	115
PIA Flight Info	114
PIA Cargo	9280979
Railway Inquiry	117
Railway Exchange	9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi	5555489
CAA	9281092

HOSPITALS

CMH	561111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International	4603666

DEPARTMENTS

CDA	9221334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Board	9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation	9209224

Sadia Rashid's 27th Ramazan Message Links Laylat al-Qadr to National Identity and Gratitude

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: This blessed night of 27th Ramazan, Laylat al-Qadr, is truly a great gift of guidance and well-being for all humanity. On this sacred night, Allah revealed the Holy Quran, providing mankind with a complete guide for liberty and progress. This night is not only for worship and devotion but also for renewing our collective commitments and reflecting on our responsibilities.

In the same spiritual spirit, our national identity is connected to the fact that the creation of our beloved homeland is a manifestation of Allah's special will and grace. We must show gratitude for this blessing, value our independence, and remember it with religious and national fervour.

Shaheed-e-Pakistan, Hakim Mohammed Said, was the flagbearer of the movement to recognise 27th Ramazan as Independence Day. He devoted his life to this cause and



educated the masses about the significance of this day. He put his commitment into practice by establishing Madinat Al-Hikmah, the city of knowledge and wisdom, and other educational institutions such as Hamdard Univer-

sity, Hamdard Public School, and Hamdard Village School. Today, 27th Ramazan is marked as Pakistan's Independence Day in Hamdard-affiliated educational institutions with national and religious zeal.

As a nation, it is our responsibility to reflect on our deeds during the nights of Ramazan, seek forgiveness for our shortcomings, and offer special prayers for the safety, unity, and stability of our beloved country. If we weaken our ideological and spiritual bonds, we will fall prey to discord and internal divisions.

Let us pledge during the blessed hours of Laylat al-Qadr to strengthen our faith, remain loyal to our homeland, and pass on the true purpose of Pakistan's creation to future generations. May Allah, by His grace, deliver humanity from the conflicts and unrest that prevail around the world and promote peace, security, and brotherhood everywhere. May Allah bless Pakistan with peace and progress. Ameen!

International Consumers Day Observed in Attock with Awareness Activities

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: The District Consumer Protection Council Attock organized a series of awareness activities on Sunday to mark International Consumers Day and highlight the importance of consumer rights while promoting fair trade practices.

According to a press release issued here, the events were held under the supervision of Assistant Director District Consumer Protection Council Attock, Abdul Rehman Akhundkhal Advocate. Members of the legal fraternity, journalists, traders and citizens from different walks of life attended the programme.

Following the seminar, an awareness walk was organized from TMA Hall Attock to the Ramazan Sasta/Sahulat Bazaar. Participants highlighted

the importance of protecting consumer rights and distributed pamphlets containing information about consumer rights and complaint mechanisms among citizens.

The pamphlets were distributed at key locations in the city including the bus stand, Kachehri Chowk and Fawara Chowk.

In line with the vision of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, special awareness desks were also set up to educate citizens about their legal rights as consumers. These desks were established at several public places including District Council Hall Attock, Civil Hospital, Kachehri Chowk, the Warden Office and other government offices where officials provided guidance regarding consumer protection laws.

Dancing Fountain

ISLAMABAD: Children are watching dancing fountain at a local park along Faisal Avenue in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Education ministry set 3-month target to enroll 25,000 Out-of-School Children in Capital

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Ministry of Education and Professional Training has set a target to enroll 25,000 out-of-school children (OOSC) in Islamabad Capital Territory within the next three months as part of 3 year rolling plan to enroll all out of school children. To facilitate this intervention, the government also plans to establish new community schools in close proximity to hot spots where there are sizeable number of out of school children.

Federal Secretary for Education and Professional Training, Mr Nadeem Mahbub, while speaking about the launch of the comprehensive enrollment drive noted that this initiative follows the recent announcement of the "No Child Left Behind" campaign by the Federal Minister for Education, Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui.

Field teams from the Federal Directorate of Education (FDE), National Commission for Human Development (NCHD), Basic Education Community Schools (BECS), and National Education Foundation (NEF) have been mobilized across the capital.

The Secretary explained that both formal and non-formal education departments are executing a 'Carpet Coverage Plan' at the Union Council level. Under this strategy, teams are conducting door-to-door surveys to identify out-of-school children and ensure their immediate enrollment.

IUI, Ministry of Religious Affairs Organize National Shabina Qiyam-ul-Lail at Faisal Mosque

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The National Shabina Qiyam-ul-Lail continues at Faisal Mosque in the last Ashra of Ramadan under a joint arrangement of the Dawah Academy of the International Islamic University Islamabad (IUI) and the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Government of Pakistan.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by religious scholars, academics, social personalities and around 500 worshippers observing Itikaf at Faisal Mosque.

Addressing the gathering, Director General Dawah Academy Prof. Dr.



Muhammad Ilyas expressed gratitude to Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Sardar Muhammad Yousaf, Secretary Ministry of Religious Affairs Dr. Sajid Mahmood

Chohan and Director General of the Ministry Hafiz Abdul Quddus for their cooperation in organizing the spiritual programme. Speaking on the occasion,

Director General Ministry of Religious Affairs Hafiz Abdul Quddus said that the spiritual collaboration between the Ministry and Dawah Academy has continued for many years.

During the night, the first four units of Taraweeh prayer and the recitation of the first part of the Holy Quran were led by Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ilyas, while the second part was recited by Qari Khalid Muhammad Durrani. The third and fourth parts were recited by Qari Sajid Kamal and Qari Yahya Anwar.

The ceremony was hosted by Dr. Qari Zia ur Rehman, Incharge Faisal Mosque Islamic Centre.

Commissioner Faisalabad Inaugurates Renovated Jinnah Park and Pine Avenue Project in Gojra

Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: Under the vision of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, work is underway on projects aimed at improving civic facilities and enhancing the beauty of the city in Gojra. In this regard, Commissioner Faisalabad Division Raja Jahangir Anwar inaugurated the renovation of Jinnah Park and the rehabilitation project of Pine Avenue in Gojra. Deputy Commissioner Toba Tek Singh Umar Abbas Mela, Assistant Commissioner Gojra Chaudhry Riaz Gujjar and other officials were also present on the occasion.

Under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Umar Abbas Mela, Jinnah Park Gojra has been completely renovated and transformed into a modern and attractive recreational spot. The park now features lush green areas, modern landscaping, colorful flower beds, a walking track and comfortable seating arrangements for visitors. Beautiful fountains, waterfalls and an artificial lake have also been developed, while decorative ducks and boats have become a center of attraction for visitors. In addition, charming bridges, gazebos, landscaped gardens, swings for children and an open-air gym have been installed. Decorative lights have been placed along trees and pathways, making the park even more appealing during the night.

On the same occasion, Commissioner Faisalabad Raja Jahangir Anwar also inaugurated the beautification and renovation project of Pine Avenue Gojra. Under this project, attractive footpaths made of colorful tough tiles have been constructed along the road, while green belts and modern landscaping have been introduced. Flower beds and decorative street lights have also been installed. The cultural wall and beautiful wall art developed on Pine Avenue have further enhanced the city's beauty.

Later, the Commissioner visited THQ Hospital Gojra, where he inspected various wards, reviewed administrative arrangements and met with patients to inquire about the medical facilities being provided. On this occasion, the project for the improvement of the hospital's entrance and exit routes was also formally inaugurated.

Commissioner Faisalabad Raja Jahangir Anwar also visited the Gojra Hockey Stadium, where he meet women hockey players and encouraged them. During the visit, the concerned officials briefed him about the construction project of shops being developed within the stadium premises.

AIOU teacher translates Arabic Navol

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Abdul Majeed Baghdadi, Chairman of the Department of Arabic at Allama Iqbal Open University has published the Urdu translation of the renowned Arabic travelogue "Ala Nahr Kunhar" under the title "Darya-e-Kunhar ke Aas Paas" (Around the Kunhar River).

This travelogue is written by the well-known Omani writer and Professor of Arabic Literature at the University of Nizwa, Dr. Maryam Al-Badi. In the book, she beautifully describes the natural scenery and local culture of Pakistan's northern regions, particularly Kaghan Valley, Naran and the surroundings of the Kunhar River.

Dr. Abdul Majeed Baghdadi has translated the book into fluent and accessible Urdu so that Urdu readers can also enjoy the captivating landscapes and experiences of this journey. According to literary circles, this translation will play an important role in strengthening cultural and literary ties between Arabic and Urdu literature.

Three-Day Eid Bazaar Shopping Festival Opens to Empower Women Entrepreneurs

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: A three-day Eid Bazaar Shopping Festival was organized at BBQ Night to promote women's empowerment and appreciate their skills. The festival was inaugurated by Ahmed Mujtaba Gilani, Chaudhry Zulfiqar Anjum, and Chaudhry Altaf Shahid.

The festival featured a variety of stalls showcasing women's

clothing, cosmetics, bangles, handmade items, blue pottery products, and jewelry. The event attracted significant interest from families and visitors who came to explore and shop for Eid.

Speaking on the occasion, festival organizers Dr. Ayesha Abdullah and Samira Abdul Rahman said that the initiative was aimed at providing women with a platform where

they could easily sell their handmade products and work alongside men in the economic sphere. They added that many women working from home through online businesses often wish for their products to reach respectable families and a wider market. Keeping this objective in mind, the three-day Eid Bazaar Shopping Festival was arranged to encourage talented women and help them earn a

respectable livelihood. Stalls set up by Zahra Cosmetics, Sunshine Collection, and companies offering scooters for women, among others, remained a major attraction for female visitors throughout the festival. The event provided an opportunity for women entrepreneurs to showcase their creativity and strengthen their role in the local economy.



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Climbing the Iran War Ladder

The war now unfolding between Iran on one side and the United States and Israel on the other did not begin merely as a confrontation over nuclear enrichment or missile development. Those issues were presented to the world as the immediate justification, but the deeper strategic objective has long been understood by many analysts: regime change in Tehran. The assumption guiding years of sanctions, covert operations, cyber warfare, and now open military confrontation was that if Iran's leadership could be decapitated, its missile and drone infrastructure destroyed, its naval capabilities crippled, and its economy suffocated, the Iranian people would eventually rise against their own government and replace it with a system aligned with Western and Israeli interests.

This strategy reflects a strategic vision that Israeli leaders, particularly Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, have advocated for decades. Netanyahu repeatedly warned that Iran represented the greatest existential threat to Israel and argued that Tehran's nuclear ambitions must be stopped before they matured. Yet critics of this argument note an important historical reality: when the earliest calls for confronting Iran began more than four decades ago, Tehran possessed neither a meaningful missile arsenal nor sophisticated drone capabilities. Its nuclear program remained limited and subject to international monitoring through the International Atomic Energy Agency. From that perspective, many observers believe that the nuclear narrative became a strategic instrument used to justify a broader geopolitical goal—the weakening or transformation of Iran as an independent regional power.

The operational plan appeared

straightforward. Remove key leaders, destroy strategic military facilities, and allow internal unrest to complete the process of political change. Early phases of the conflict seemed to follow that script. Massive air strikes targeted military installations, command centers, missile launch sites, and naval bases. Thousands of targets were struck in rapid succession, creating the impression that Iran's military capabilities were collapsing and that the regime might soon lose control.

The United States soon escalated the campaign further. President Donald J. Trump announced that American forces had carried out one of the most powerful bombing raids of the war on Iran's Kharg Island, the country's most critical oil export terminal. The president stated that U.S. aircraft had destroyed every military target on the island while deliberately avoiding the destruction of the oil infrastructure itself. Kharg Island is the lifeline of Iran's petroleum exports, handling roughly ninety percent of the country's crude shipments. Trump warned, however, that if Iran interfered with maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, the United States could reconsider its restraint.

Yet the expected political collapse inside Iran has not materialized. Instead, the external attacks appear to have triggered a powerful instinct for national cohesion. Iranian society, shaped by centuries of resistance to foreign intervention, has not rallied behind calls for externally driven regime change. The assumption that military pressure would spark a popular uprising has proven to be one of the central miscalculations of

the conflict.

At the same time, Iran has responded by widening the battlefield beyond its own territory. Rather than fighting only within its borders, Tehran has attempted to redistribute the economic burden of the war across the entire Middle East and ultimately the global economy. Missile and drone attacks, threats against regional energy infrastructure, and disruptions to maritime routes have created an atmosphere of strategic uncertainty that extends far beyond Iran itself.

The global energy system lies at the center of this confrontation. The Strait of Hormuz remains one of the most critical maritime corridors in the world. Military planners have increasingly warned that reopening the Strait of Hormuz by force would

be far more complicated than it appears in theory. Even if the navies of the United States, the United Kingdom, and France attempted to escort commercial tankers through the strait, analysts believe it would be extremely difficult to guarantee safe passage without Iran's consent. For this reason, many defense experts argue that reopening the corridor through purely military means would be risky and uncertain, and that stable navigation would likely require some form of diplomatic understanding with Iran.

The war has also exposed the vulnerability of even highly advanced military powers. Israel possesses one of the world's most sophisticated intelligence networks and defense systems. Yet sustained missile and drone exchanges demonstrate that modern warfare imposes heavy economic and psychological costs on any society. Repeated missile alerts, damage to infrastructure, and interrup-

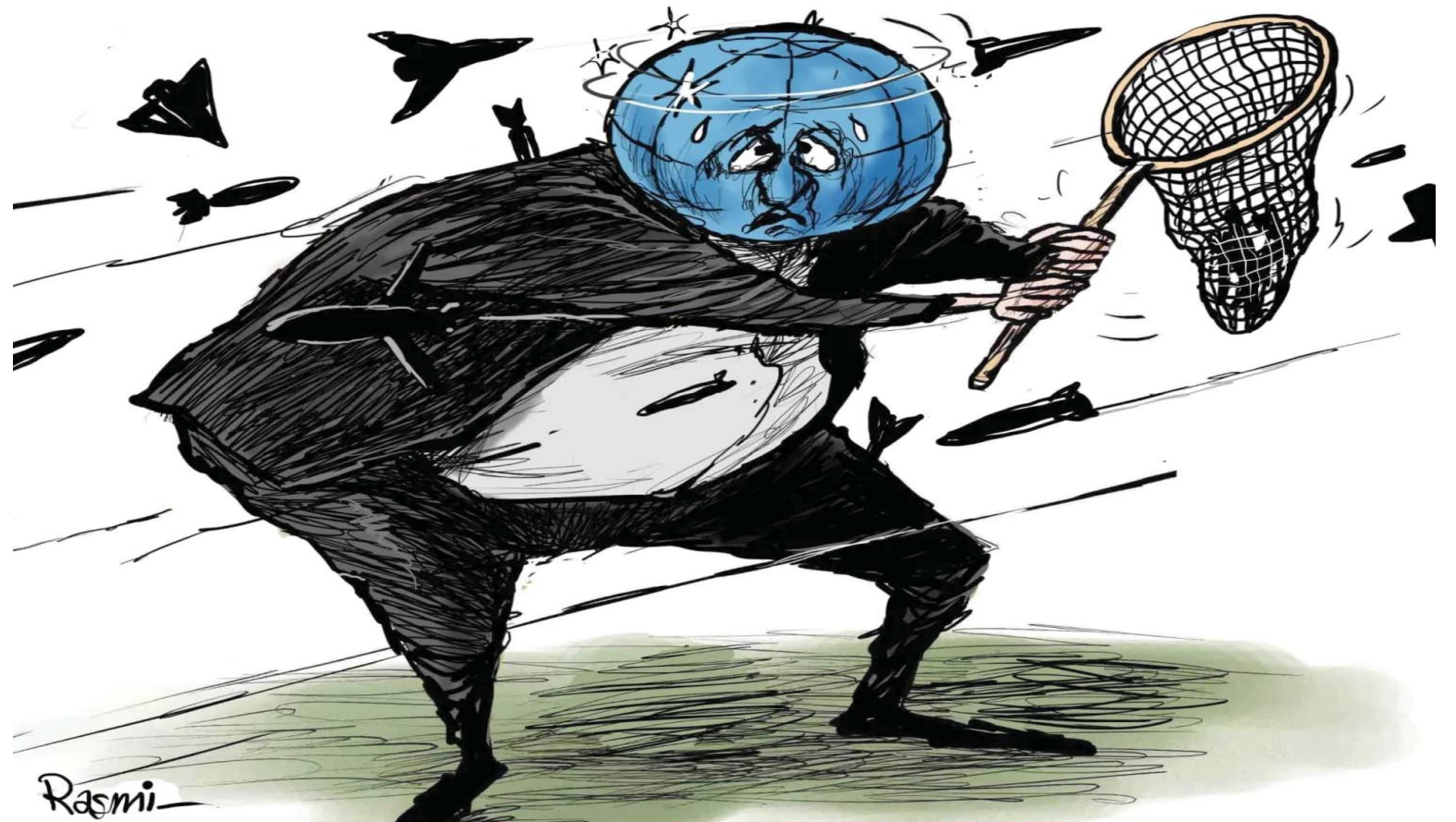
tions to daily life illustrate the limitations of technological superiority when conflicts become prolonged.

Another important dimension of the conflict is the growing unease among Gulf Arab states hosting American military bases. Countries such as Qatar, Bahrain, and Kuwait have long relied on the U.S. security umbrella as a deterrent against regional instability. However, these bases now risk becoming direct targets in a wider confrontation. What was once viewed as protection increasingly appears to some regional leaders as a potential magnet for retaliation.

A notable geopolitical alignment has also emerged between Israel and India. Over the past two decades, India has become one of Israel's closest defense partners, cooperating extensively in drone development, missile defense systems, surveillance technologies, and intelligence sharing. This partnership is not merely technological but also reflects a similar strategic worldview. Israel's doctrine seeks to maintain overwhelming regional superiority so that no neighboring state can challenge its security. India's concept of "Akhand Bharat," or Greater India, imagines a restoration of influence across the broader South Asian subcontinent. While framed primarily in cultural terms, it reflects a desire to neutralize regional rivals and consolidate influence across neighboring territories. This parallel strategic outlook helps explain India's diplomatic support for Israel during the current conflict.

Perhaps the most revealing aspect of the war is how dramatically the perception of victory has shifted since the first days of fighting. When hostilities began on February 28, many analysts predicted a rapid victory for the United States and Israel. Early strategic assessments informally estimated that Washington had

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Cartoon by Amjad Rasmi. (Courtesy of Ashraf Al-Awsat)

Teaching in Diverse Classrooms: Challenges, Biases & Breakthroughs

Pakistan's classrooms pulse with the nation's vibrant diversity: ethnic Pashtuns from rugged frontiers share desks with industrious Punjabis and resilient Baloch nomads, urban children fluent in English and private tuition sit alongside rural kids speaking Sindhi, Pushto, or Brahui dialects, Sunni majorities learn beside Shia, Christian, Hindu, and Ahmadi minorities, physically abled students interact with peers who have visual impairments, autism, or mobility challenges, affluent city dwellers from gated communities mingle with children of daily wage laborers from urban slums or distant villages, boys and girls navigate entrenched gender expectations in co-educational settings. This rich human mosaic mirrors Pakistan's cultural, linguistic, socioeconomic, religious, and ability spectrum, holding immense potential for enriched learning through multiple viewpoints and lived experiences. Yet for teachers, it presents a labyrinth of challenges, where unaddressed biases deepen divides, and innovative breakthroughs offer beacons of hope. With marginalized groups comprising a significant portion of primary and secondary enrollment, equipping educators to thrive in diversity is not optional but essential for national progress. This in-depth article dissects the multifaceted challenges, unpacks pervasive biases both conscious and implicit, and spotlights proven breakthroughs, weaving teacher testimonials, policy critiques, provincial case studies, and actionable strategies tailored to Pakistani realities.

Diversity unfolds in layers, each demanding nuanced navigation. Linguistically, Urdu-medium teachers confront students whose first languages are Sindhi in Hyderabad, Pushto in Peshawar, Balochi in Quetta, Saraiki in Multan, or Burushaski in Gilgit – dialect clashes hinder comprehension, with non-Urdu speakers lagging in reading by grades. Socioeconomically, elite offspring with home tutors contrast laborers' children arriving hungry or fatigued, tiffins sparking ridicule ("smelly curry"). Culturally, tribal codes of honor from Waziristan clash with urban discipline norms; veiled Pashtun girls shrink from male peers' banter. Religiously, majority festivals dominate calendars while minority observances go unmarked, Islamiat lessons marginalizing non-Muslims. Ability-wise, mainstream classes host visually impaired without Braille, autistic children without sensory breaks, wheelchair users facing stair-only schools. Gender dynamics pit assertive boys against reserved girls sidelined from sports or labs. Refugee influxes – Afghans in KP, Rohingya in Karachi – add trauma layers. Overcrowded rooms (50-70 students), rigid rote curricula, deficient materials (torn books, no projectors), and untrained aides overwhelm. A Rawalpindi primary teacher confesses: "Push to girl silent all term; rich boy bullies slum kid's accent; blind child wanders lost." Urban Karachi sees Bengali fisherfolk kids shunned; rural Thar, Hindu tribals isolated. Challenges cascade relentlessly. Language walls isolate 30% rural newcomers; teachers persist Urdu-monolingual, alienating dialects – comprehension eraters, self-esteem plummets. Cultural friction ignites: Baloch embroidered bags mocked "backward," tribal "jirga justice" defies classroom rules. Socioeconomic bullying festers – designer bags vs patched satchels, branded shoes vs chappals. Religious insensitivity simmers: Christmas ignored, minority kids recite majority prayers awkwardly. Disability neglects rampant – no ramps, peers tease "crazy," teachers untrained for IEPs. Gender imbalances: girls clustered rear, boys monopolize questions; menstrual stigma skips attendance. Large classes preclude individualization; poverty manifests unkempt hair, empty stomachs, sleepy eyes. Digital chasms widened COVID – smart homes Zoomed, rural mobiles absent. Security in conflict zones adds fear; natural disasters displace learners mid-term. Biases burrow deep, conscious and covert, magnifying mayhem. Implicit stereotypes stereotype: "Pashtun hot-headed," "Sindhi lazy," "Baloch tribal," "Christian poor," "rural illiterate," "disabled helpless," "girl timid." Teachers unconsciously privilege "model" majority – Punjabi Sunni abled boys lead groups, win praise. Confirmation bias attributes struggle to "culture laziness" ignoring poverty trauma. Affinity tilts to similar; halo crowns tidy affluent despite average work. HEC studies reveal significant negative views toward minorities; discriminated students report lower grades, group exclusion. Female educators battle male dominance; special needs shunned as "disruptive." Curriculum bias: Urdu-centric history glorifies majority, dialects footnotes. Festivals majority-skewed; dress codes penalize cultural attire. Pre-service training omits bias modules; in-service rare. Rural teachers bias urban accents "sophisticated"; urban disdain dialects "vulgar." Gender tropes: boys "leaders," girls "home-makers." Disability stigma: "pity burden" not "capability." Breakthroughs blaze trails. Culturally Responsive Teaching (CRT) localizes: Pushto folktales teach ethics, Baloch weaving integrates art, Sindhi poetry boosts literacy. Differentiated

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Analysis

Dr. T. M. Malik

Cancer: The Silent Threat – Early Detection and Global Innovations in Diagnosis

Cancer remains one of the most formidable health challenges confronting humanity today. Often described as a "silent threat," the disease frequently develops unnoticed until it reaches an advanced stage. Yet the global fight against cancer is witnessing unprecedented progress. Advances in early detection, improved diagnostics and innovative treatment strategies are transforming cancer from a fatal illness into a disease that can often be detected early and treated successfully. Globally, nearly 20 million new cancer cases are diagnosed every year, while close to 10 million people lose their lives to the disease annually. The burden continues to rise due to population growth, aging populations, environmental risks and changing lifestyles. Despite these alarming figures, modern medical science has made remarkable progress in understanding cancer biology, improving diagnostics and developing more effective treatment options. Medical experts emphasize that many cancers are preventable. Major risk factors include tobacco use, alcohol consumption, obesity, lack of physical activity and unhealthy diets with insufficient fruits and vegetables. Smoking alone remains the leading preventable cause of cancer worldwide. Public awareness, lifestyle changes and regular screening programs can significantly reduce cancer-related mortality. **Pakistan's Growing Cancer Burden** Pakistan is also facing a significant cancer challenge. Medical estimates suggest that

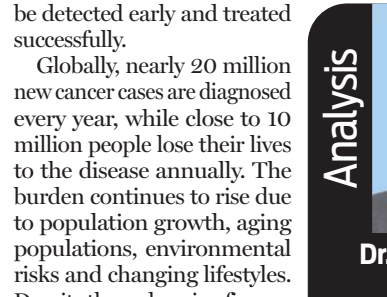
around 200,000 new cancer cases are diagnosed annually in the country, while many patients lose their lives due to late diagnosis and limited treatment access. Among the most common cancers in Pakistan are breast cancer, lung cancer, oral cancer, liver cancer, prostate cancer and colorectal cancer.

However, Pakistan has made notable progress in strengthening cancer care services. Dedicated oncologists, expanding medical infrastructure and growing public awareness have begun to reshape the country's response to this disease. **Breakthroughs in Early Detection** One of the most promising developments in modern oncology is the emergence of liquid biopsy and early blood based diagnostic tests. These revolutionary technologies allow doctors to detect cancer related genetic material in

blood samples even before symptoms appear. Early diagnosis significantly increases survival rates and makes treatment more manageable. Globally recognized oncologists continue to advance research in precision medicine, targeted therapy, immunotherapy and genomic diagnostics, opening new horizons for cancer management. Pakistan's own medical community has also contributed to oncology progress through research, clinical practice, and patient care.

Prominent Pakistani oncologists such as Lt. Col. Dr. Saleem Siddiqi, Prof. Dr. Zeba Aziz, Prof. Dr. Arif Jamsheer, Prof. Dr. Neelum Siddiqi, Prof. Dr. Shehar Yar, Prof. Dr. Qasim Mehmood Buttar and Prof. Dr. Muhammad Tahir Bashir

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Analysis

Dr. Muhammad Jalal Arif

Kazakhstan Prepares for 'Historic' Constitutional Referendum Amid Economic Strength Claims



Derya Soysal

On the morning of 14 March 2026, just one day before Kazakhstan's nationwide constitutional referendum, Deputy Foreign Minister Arman Issetov addressed international journalists during a briefing at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Astana. The press event formed part of a special media tour organized for foreign reporters covering what officials describe as one of the most consequential political moments in the country's modern history.

Opening his remarks, Issetov welcomed the journalists gathered in the ministry's Kazakhstan Hall and emphasized the importance of the moment. "I warmly welcome you in Kazakhstan... during the period of a significant event for our country - the national referendum on the new draft of the Constitution," he said, underlining that the vote scheduled for 15 March would mark a major step in the country's political development.

Throughout his remarks, the Deputy Foreign Minister repeatedly framed the referendum as a historic turning point, stating that "today our country is experiencing a truly historic stage in its development."

A Reform Built on Three Decades of Steadfastness

Before outlining the details of the proposed constitutional reform, Issetov reflected on Kazakhstan's development since independence. The message was clear: the referendum is presented not as a reaction to instability but as the next phase of a long-term national trajectory.

The Deputy Foreign Minister reminded journalists that over the past decades Kazakhstan has built the foundations of an independent state and steadily modernized its economy and institutions. "Over the past years, we've accomplished a lot. We have built an independent state and laid the foundations for sustainable development," he said. He highlighted that Kazakhstan has gained a lot of prestige in the whole world with Tokayev.

Economic development and investment in human capital were also highlighted as key achievements. According to Issetov, Kazakhstan has consistently pursued economic diversification while investing heavily in education and science. "We have been consistently developing our economy... while paying particular attention to the development of human capital," he noted.

This narrative of steady progress set the stage for the central argument of the briefing: that constitutional reform is the logical continuation of the country's modernization.

Economic Stability Ahead of Polit-

ical Transformation

During the briefing, Issetov also presented economic indicators intended to demonstrate Kazakhstan's resilience in an uncertain global environment.

He pointed out that the country's gross domestic product reached 306 billion US dollars last year, allowing Kazakhstan to enter the list of the 50 largest economies in the world.

Looking ahead, the government expects continued growth. According to forecasts by international financial institutions, the country's GDP could reach 320 billion dollars by the end of the current year.

Financial reserves were also highlighted as a sign of economic stability. As Issetov explained, "the country's gold reserves amount to 74 billion dollars, while total reserves stand at 139 billion dollars."

These figures were presented as evidence that Kazakhstan is entering the constitutional referendum from a position of economic strength.

The Political Reform Agenda

The constitutional reform initiative, according to the Deputy Foreign Minister, stems from a broader transformation agenda initiated by President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev.

"At the initiative of the President of Kazakhstan... large-scale transformations are being implemented," Issetov told reporters, describing the constitutional reform as a continuation of earlier political changes.

Interestingly, the reform process initially focused on parliamentary changes. However, public discussions soon expanded far beyond that initial scope. "Public discussions that lasted for six months went far beyond this initiative," he said.

The final result, he suggested, was a comprehensive constitutional redesign rather than a limited institutional adjustment.

New Constitution

A central theme of the briefing was public participation in drafting the proposed constitution. Authorities sought to present the reform as a nationwide process shaped by citizen input.

To gather proposals, a Constitutional Commission of 130 members was established. According to Issetov, the commission reviewed more than 12,000 suggestions submitted by citizens through the government's digital platforms.

"The Commission carefully reviewed and summarized more than 12,000 proposals submitted by citizens through the state digital platforms eGov and eOtinish," he explained.

The work of the commission, he stressed, was transparent and inclusive. "It is important to emphasize that the work of the Commission was fully transparent," he added.

In this context, the reform was linked to the government's broader concept of a "listening state," where institutions respond more directly to citizens' concerns.

The scope of the proposed changes is substantial. According to the government, the amendments affect 84 percent of the current constitution.

As Issetov explained to journalists, "entirely new articles and sections were drafted, and the



structure of the Basic Law underwent significant changes."

However, he emphasized that the importance of the reform lies less in the quantity of amendments than in their meaning. "The novelty of the reform lies not in the number of amendments but primarily in its new conceptual content," he said.

-Human Rights as the Core Principle

One of the most notable aspects of the proposed constitution is its strong focus on human rights.

According to the Deputy Foreign Minister, the document explicitly establishes that "the individual human life, rights and freedoms are officially proclaimed the highest value." He also added that the section devoted to the protection of human rights and freedoms has become the most extensive - almost one third of the Constitution (30 articles).

This principle is reflected in the size of the constitutional section devoted to rights and freedoms. Issetov told journalists that it now constitutes nearly one third of the entire constitution.

The philosophical foundation of the reform is captured in a single principle repeatedly emphasized during the briefing: "The state exists for the individual, not the individual for the state."

He noted that it is the central theme throughout the entire text of the new Constitution.

The draft constitution also introduces a range of legal innovations. Among them are guarantees related to privacy, personal data protection, and digital rights. According to Issetov, the constitution proposes to enshrine these protections at the highest legal level.

The document also introduces provisions strengthening legal safeguards for citizens, including the Miranda rule, which aims to reinforce procedural rights and access to legal assistance.

Together, these measures reflect an effort to align Kazakhstan's legal framework with modern international standards.

The proposed constitution also restructures the country's political institutions. According to Issetov, the draft establishes "a model of a strong and competent Parliament, an effective Govern-

ment, and an independent and transparent judiciary."

The reforms also expand the role of consultative bodies such as the Kurultai (Turkic name) and introduce the Halyk Kenesi (People's Council) as a high-level advisory institution.

At the same time, the Halyk Kenesi (People's Council), as the highest consultative body, will create a reliable channel of feedback between the state and society, including various social and ethnic groups he said.

These structures are designed to strengthen dialogue between government and society and provide new channels for citizen participation.

In concluding his remarks, Issetov described the referendum as a response to both domestic aspirations and global challenges.

"The adoption of the new Constitution is a requirement of the time," he said, emphasizing that the reform aims to strengthen the country's stability and long-term development.

The Deputy Foreign Minister expressed confidence that the new Basic Law would help build what he described as "a Just, Strong, Safe and Clean Kazakhstan."

The referendum has attracted significant international attention. According to the Foreign Ministry, 359 international observers and 206 foreign journalists have been accredited to monitor the vote.

Kazakh citizens abroad will also be able to participate. Voting stations have been established at diplomatic missions in 54 countries, operating through 71 election commissions.

Day of the Referendum

Alongside the referendum, Kazakhstan hosted a series of structured briefings in Astana on March 15-16, 2026, designed to inform and support international observers. The program featured representatives from major regional and global organizations.

On March 15, sessions began with the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation led by Deputy Secretary General Oleg Kopylov, followed by the Turkic Parliamentary Assembly (TURKPA) with Secretary General Ramil Hasan and colleagues. Later, experts from the Conference

on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) addressed new challenges and human dimensions, while the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly presented a diverse panel of parliamentary leaders from Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. At 16:00, Omer Kocaman, Deputy Secretary General of the Organization of Turkic States (OTS), delivered his briefing, underscoring the importance of the referendum for the Turkic world.

The day concluded with contributions from the CIS Executive Committee, American and Eurasian NGOs, and the CSTO Parliamentary Assembly.

On March 16, the program continued with TURKPA parliamentarians from Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Türkiye, and Kazakhstan, followed by another SCO session led by Oleg Kopylov. Omer Kocaman again represented the OTS, reaffirming the organization's support for Kazakhstan's constitutional reforms. The day also included presentations from the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), represented by Imran Sadikhov, and the CSTO Parliamentary Assembly, with speakers from Kyrgyzstan and Russia. This comprehensive schedule demonstrated Kazakhstan's commitment to transparency, inclusivity, and international engagement during the referendum process.

Among the speakers was Oleg Kopylov (Head of Mission, Deputy Secretary General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization), who addressed the media about the work of international observers and the organization of the referendum process. His remarks focused on the accessibility of polling stations, the principles guiding observer missions, and the overall atmosphere surrounding the vote.

Accessibility and Conditions for Voters

Kopylov began his remarks by highlighting the measures taken to ensure that all citizens could participate in the referendum process. According to him, particular attention had been paid to accessibility and inclusiveness at polling stations across the country.

He stressed that "opportunities have been created for voters and for citizens - everyone is welcome, including citizens with disabilities."

He explained that special assistance was available for voters who needed it, noting that "internet and audio assistance services have been provided, as well as additional support mechanisms for people with limited mobility."

Kopylov added that members of the observation mission had personally verified these preparations during visits to different regions. As he put it, "we traveled to the regions and saw that everything is absolutely ready there," emphasizing that the level of preparation required "significant effort and major resources."

Observer Mission

The speaker then described the structure of the international observer mission that he represented.

Observation

He noted the organizational work carried out by Kazakhstan's authorities, saying that prepara-

tions for the referendum had been conducted at a high professional level.

"Organizational and technical preparations for the referendum have been carried out at a high professional level," he stated.

Observers also noted the use of technological innovations and efforts to inform the public about the proposed constitutional amendments.

According to Kopylov, this contributed to widespread public engagement with the referendum. "We see a high level of public interest in the proposed institutional reforms," he said.

One of the most visible elements highlighted by observers was the atmosphere at polling stations during the day of voting.

Kopylov described a positive environment, explaining that observers had seen many citizens actively participating in the process.

"We saw people coming to vote with their families and children," he said, noting that there were also "many young voters."

In his view, this participation reflected the importance citizens attach to the referendum.

"From our point of view, this demonstrates that citizens attach special importance to the current referendum and shows a high level of public trust in the voting process."

Media and International Interest

The briefing also emphasized the level of international attention surrounding the referendum.

Observers noted the active presence of journalists and the participation of various international organizations monitoring the process.

Kopylov remarked that "we see active work by the media and strong interest from observers, including representatives of other international organizations."

Contribution to Democratic Development

In concluding his remarks, Kopylov highlighted the broader significance of the referendum for Kazakhstan's political development.

According to him, the electoral process represents an important step in strengthening democratic principles and the rule of law.

"The current electoral process - the expression of citizens' will in the referendum - contributes to the further development of democratic principles and the rule of law in the Republic of Kazakhstan," he said.

He added that "holding a transparent, inclusive and fair referendum in accordance with international standards is an important condition for the country's sustainable development and prosperity."

Closing the briefing, Kopylov wished success to all participants in what he described as an important political event and indicated that the observer mission would present its official findings following the completion of the referendum.

Furthermore, H. E. Ambassador Ismat Jahan, an expert in the human dimension, shared her impressions of the referendum process after observing several polling stations during the voting day. In her remarks, she highlighted the calm and orderly atmosphere that characterized the electoral process.

The Ambassador noted that the voting environment was peaceful and well organized, emphasizing the positive mood among citizens participating in the referendum. She described the process as "calm and peaceful," adding that it was impressive to see families participating together, including "small children accompanying their parents to the polling stations."

According to her, this presence of families reflected the civic engagement of the population and the importance people attach to participating in the country's political life.

Ambassador Jahan also commented on the work carried out by those responsible for organizing the vote. She praised the efforts of the election authorities and staff involved in managing the process, noting that "the organizers have clearly put a lot of effort into conducting the voting process."

In her view, the level of preparation demon-

strated the commitment of the authorities to ensuring a smooth and orderly referendum.

Another important aspect she highlighted was accessibility. The Ambassador observed that the voting process had been arranged in a way that allowed citizens to participate without major obstacles. She remarked that "everything was accessible," and emphasized that special facilities were provided for voters who needed assistance.

In particular, she pointed out that polling stations included measures designed for people with disabilities, ensuring that they could vote comfortably and independently. "There were facilities for people with disabilities," she said, noting that such arrangements are an important component of inclusive electoral processes.

Concluding her remarks, Ambassador Jahan expressed appreciation to the authorities responsible for organizing the referendum. She thanked them for their efforts and stated that her overall impressions of the voting process were positive. As she summarized, "all impressions were good."

Omer Kocaman, Deputy Secretary General of the Organization of Turkic States (OTS), shared also his reflections on the process, emphasizing the transparency, inclusivity, and adherence to both Kazakh law and international norms.

Compliance with Legal and International Standards

Kocaman highlighted that the referendum was conducted in full accordance with Kazakhstan's legal framework. He noted that the preparations and recent efforts by the authorities ensured the process aligned with international standards and practices. This compliance, he stressed, was essential for the legitimacy and credibility of the outcome.

During his observations, Kocaman remarked on the strong participation from all segments of society. Citizens from diverse backgrounds, including educators and community members, were actively engaged in the referendum process. He emphasized that this widespread involvement reflected the democratic spirit and collective will of the Kazakh people.

Inclusivity

A notable aspect of the referendum was its inclusivity. Kocaman observed that special arrangements were made to ensure accessibility for individuals with disabilities, allowing them to participate fully. He praised these efforts as a positive reflection of Kazakhstan's commitment to equal rights for all citizens.

Kocaman congratulated Kazakhstan on successfully organizing the referendum. He expressed hope that the constitutional changes would strengthen the country's governance and identity, ushering in a new era of reform and dynamism. He also underlined the importance of these developments for the broader Turkic world, noting that Kazakhstan's progress contributes to the unity and strength of Turkic states.

In closing, Kocaman conveyed his congratulations to the Kazakh people and government. He expressed confidence that the referendum would not only empower Kazakhstan domestically but also enhance its role as a leading state within the Turkic community. The Organization of Turkic States, he affirmed, welcomes these changes with great joy and optimism.

CONCLUSION

The referendum was monitored by international observers and general supervisors, who were present at polling stations. Their participation underscored the openness of the process and provided additional assurance that the referendum was conducted fairly and transparently.

The author is a Brussels-based researcher and media professional focusing on European Union-Central Asia relations, connectivity and tourism diplomacy.

In 2025, she was named Tourism Ambassador of Kazakhstan in recognition of her role in promoting the country to European audiences. She studied at the Université libre de Bruxelles. She is Director at EUReflect



Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
153,866.16	154,421.43
Day's High	Day's Low
155,002.10	152,780.79
Index Value	Change
11,734,798,583	-555.27
Percentage	Time
-0.36%	13 Mar, 2026 4:30 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
10,261.15	-44.00
Percentage	Time
-0.43%	13 Mar, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
46,639.25	-38.60
Percentage	Time
-0.083%	13 Mar, 1:04 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
53,819.61	-633.35
Percentage	Time
-1.16%	13 Mar, 3:45 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	193.40	197
Bahrain Dinar	730.65	730.70
Canadian Dollar	202.18	206.50
China Yuan	36.50	37.75
Danish Krone	43.32	43.72
Euro	320.59	324.05
Hong Kong Dollar	34.8	35.8
Indian Rupee	2.4	2.85
Japanese Yen	1.7177	1.8164
Kuwaiti Dinar	889.45	900.25
Malaysian Ringgit	65.25	66.45
New Zealand \$	162.77	166.25
Norwegians Krone	27.61	27.91
Omani Riyal	715.65	725.65
Qatari Riyal	74.6	75.3
Saudi Riyal	73.75	74.7
Singapore Dollar	214.34	219.25
Swedish Korona	30.15	30.45
Swiss Franc	355	358.85
Thai Bhat	8.05	8.15
U.A.E Dirham	75.50	76.75
UK Pound Sterling	371.65	375.25
US Dollar	279.05	280.40

Pakistan must adopt a strategy to strengthen its energy security

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Chief Executive Officer Pakistan Furniture Council Mian Kashif Ashfaq Sunday said that in the wake of the US-Israel-Iran war, Pakistan must urgently adopt a comprehensive strategy to strengthen energy security by diversifying its energy mix, expanding domestic resources and building larger strategic fuel reserves.

Chairing here today board of directors meeting, he said a diversified and resilient energy framework would not only protect Pakistan's economy during geopolitical crises but also support sustainable industrial growth and long-term economic stability. He observed that the conflict in the Middle East has already triggered volatility in global oil markets and disrupted key supply routes, particularly the Strait of Hormuz, through which a significant



portion of the world's oil trade passes. Any prolonged disruption could sharply increase oil prices and severely impact energy-importing economies like Pakistan. He said Pakistan's heavy reliance on imported petroleum products exposes the national economy to external shocks, inflationary pressures and rising production costs. He stressed that the Pakistan must accelerate investment in alternative energy sources including hydropower, solar, wind and indigenous coal, while also promoting energy efficiency across industrial and commercial sectors.

While concluding he suggested that the government should enhance strategic petroleum reserves to cushion the economy against sudden supply disruptions and price spikes. Strengthening regional energy cooperation and developing alternative import routes would also help ensure uninterrupted fuel supplies.

Weekly Bazaar

ISLAMABAD: People are busy in buying vegetables at a Sunday weekly bazaar sector G-11 in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Introducing parent-managed accounts on WhatsApp

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: WhatsApp is the trusted way families communicate because it's simple, private, and reliable. With input from families and experts, WhatsApp is rolling out new parent-managed accounts that allow parents or guardians to set up WhatsApp for pre-teens, with new controls to limit their WhatsApp experience to messaging and calling.

To begin, parents will need the phone they have bought for the family member and their own device, side by side to link their accounts. Once set up, these accounts are controlled by the parent or guardian who will be able to

decide who can contact the account and which groups they can join. In addition, parents can review message requests from unknown contacts and manage the account's privacy settings.

The new parental controls and settings are gated by a parent PIN on the managed device. Only parents can access and change privacy settings, ensuring they are empowered to tailor their family's experience.

All personal conversations remain private and protected with end-to-end encryption, meaning no one, not even WhatsApp, can see or hear them. WhatsApp is providing more tools and insights for parents, particularly around groups.

Energy Infrastructure Modernization Key to Economic Growth, Says Tax Official

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman Saif ur Rehman Sunday said modern energy infrastructure is foundation to industrial competitiveness, export growth, urban productivity and employment creation.

Speaking here today at a seminar on "Public-Private Partnerships in Energy" he said state owned distribution companies, responsible for last-mile delivery, have been burdened by high technical losses, weak recovery performance and persistent financial stress. These structural shortcomings have been a central driver of the power sector's cumulative circular debt. He said government must rethink public-private partnerships in energy sector for reliable power to industrial production, urban growth, small businesses and household. He said emerging markets offer equally instructive lessons. Brazil's electricity reforms in the 1990s demonstrate



how private participation, under effective oversight, can deliver tangible operational gains. As private distributors expanded networks and modernised systems, technical and commercial losses declined sharply, while access and service quality improved.

Concluding he suggested that crystal clear public private partnerships can steer out the country from looming energy crisis and ensure good governance through proper distribution with augmentation of transmission networks on modern scientific lines.

Beetroot Sugar Poised to Revolutionize Pakistan's Agriculture and Exports

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Convener Federation of Commerce and Industry regional committee on food shahid Imran Sunday said with coherent policy support, sustained investment, and market-driven ambition, beetroot sugar could emerge as one of Pakistan's most quietly transformative agricultural success stories.

Talking here today to a delegation of progressive farmers led by Ms Sana Abdullah Ch he said Pakistan's beet sugar exports are still small in volume, with 1 per cent share in total sugar national production whereas globally beet is cornerstone of industrial agriculture. Qatar, Bahrain, and Kuwait have emerged as

primary destinations, driven by demand for refined and specialty sugar products. Export prices averaged over \$3,300 per tonne in 2024, signalling improving quality, packaging, and market acceptance. He said

He said for decades, sugarcane has dominated Pakistan's sweetener landscape, consuming vast quantities of water and tying the country's sugar economy to a single crop cycle. Beetroot sugar, by contrast, offers a compelling alternative. It requires 30-40% less water than sugarcane, matures in five to six months instead of 12-14, and delivers higher sugar recovery rates, often ranging between 14% and 18%, compared to the national cane average of 9-10% he concluded.

Auto market shifts gears; sales jump 43pc in first eight months of FY26

News Desk

KARACHI: Auto sales in Pakistan picked up significant speed during the first eight months of FY26, even as the tractor segment continued to face headwinds.

According to data shared by industry sources in Karachi, sales of cars, SUVs, pickups and vans reached 17,121 units in February. That marks a 42 per cent increase compared to the same month last year, although sales dropped 26 per cent from January due to fewer working days and the usual post-New Year slowdown in vehicle registrations.

Overall, vehicle sales from July to February climbed to 128,498 units - a 43 per cent rise from the 89,770 units recorded during the same period last year. Analysts say the yearly surge was driven by new players entering the market, easing inflation, lower interest rates and improving economic sentiment.

Among manufacturers, Sazgar Engineering Works reported February sales of 1,682 units - a sharp 90 per cent jump year-on-year, though down 16 per cent from January. Its cumulative sales for the eight-month period rose 54 per cent to 10,896 units, DAWN News reported on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Indus Motor Company - the assembler of Toyota vehicles in Pakistan - posted 3,817 units in February, up 46 per cent compared with last year but 25 per cent lower than the previous month. Its total sales for July-February climbed 59 per cent to 29,440 units.

Honda Atlas Cars recorded 2,114 units in February, edging up 3 per cent year-on-year but falling 42 per cent month-on-month. Despite the dip, its eight-month sales reached 17,773 units, showing a strong 57 per cent rise from last year.



Hyundai Nishat Motors was the only automaker to post a slight annual decline, selling 1,021 units in February - down 3 per cent from a year earlier but roughly unchanged from January. However, its cumulative sales still jumped 38 per cent to 8,754 units. At the same time, Pak Suzuki Motor Company logged 8,160 units

in February, up 53 per cent year-on-year though 25 per cent lower than January. Its sales for the first eight months of the fiscal year increased 31 per cent to 59,456 units.

Industry expert Mashood Ali Khan said the sector is still on track to reach around 200,000 units in combined sales of cars, SUVs, pickups and vans by the end of the year.

Motorcycle and three-wheeler sales also showed healthy growth, rising 24 per cent year-on-year to 159,512 units in February, despite a 12 per cent monthly decline. Total sales in this category reached 1.3 million units during the July-February period - up 31 per cent.

Atlas Honda, maker of the iconic Honda CD70, sold 136,000 bikes in February, a 26 per cent annual increase but 13 per cent lower than January. The tractor segment, however,

remained under pressure. Sales rose 12 per cent year-on-year but dropped sharply by 31 per cent month-on-month to 1,717 units in February. Over the eight-month period, tractor sales declined 21 per cent to 17,151 units.

Truck and bus sales painted a brighter picture, climbing 37 per cent compared with last year despite a 40 per cent monthly drop, reaching 664 units in February. For the fiscal year so far, sales in this segment surged 82 per cent to 5,296 units.

Experts say motorcycles are driving strong demand, while trucks and buses are slowly gaining traction. However, tractors remain weighed down by policy challenges, and rising costs are squeezing auto parts manufacturers.

Looking ahead, analysts believe the sector could maintain its momentum through 2026 as borrowing costs fall and new hybrid and plug-in hybrid vehicles enter the market.

Punjab Minister for Housing Bilal Yasin holds open public hearing at his office

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Housing Bilal Yasin held an open public hearing at his office, where party workers and residents of the constituency presented their issues. He issued instructions for the immediate resolution of public complaints, while a large number of people attended the session. Beneficiaries expressed their gratitude to the Chief Minister of Punjab for the financial assistance provided under the Ramzan Nigehban Package. Speaking on the occasion, the Provincial Minister for Housing said that food items are available in abundance at affordable prices in all Ramzan bazaars. He added that the politics of those who exploited the public has now been buried.

Punjab agri dept issues early cotton sowing advisory

MULTAN: The Punjab agriculture department has issued recommendations for early cotton cultivation, advising farmers to complete sowing by March 31.

According to a spokesman of the department, districts of Faisalabad, Sahiwal, Sargodha, Multan and Dera Ghazi Khan are most suitable for early cotton cultivation.

Farmers have been advised to cultivate approved triple-gene varieties including CKC-1, CKC-3, Hatif-3, ICS-386, CKC-6 and CEMB-AAS3.

The spokesman urged growers to ensure that the seed purchased is certified by the Federal Seed Certification and Registration Department and belongs to genuine triple-gene varieties.

For early cotton sowing, the recommended spacing is 2.5 feet between rows and 1.5 to 2 feet between plants. Farmers should use two to five kilograms of delinted seed with more than 75 per cent germination or five to six kilograms with about 60 per cent germination per acre.

Pakistan Cricket Star and Former Captain Sarfaraz Ahmed Announces Retirement From International Cricket

Asim Tanveer

ISLAMABAD: Former Test captain and ICC U19 Cricket World Cup 2006 and ICC Champions Trophy 2017 winning captain Sarfaraz Ahmed has announced his retirement from international cricket, bringing an end to a distinguished career spanning around two decades.

Karachi-born wicketkeeper-batter, who made his ODI debut in 2007 before making his Test and T20I debuts in 2010, went on to represent Pakistan in 54 Tests, 117 ODIs and 61 T20Is. He scored 6,164 runs across formats, including six centuries and 35 half-centuries. Behind the stumps, he grabbed 315 catches and completed 56 stumpings during his international career.

Sarfaraz captained Pakistan in

100 international matches across formats (50 ODIs, 37 T20Is, 13 Tests) and led the side to the No.1 ranking in T20I cricket. During his captaincy, Pakistan achieved a world-record streak of 11 consecutive T20I series victories and recorded six clean sweeps, which include against West Indies (2016 and 2018), Sri Lanka (2017), Australia (2018), New Zealand (2018) and Scotland (2018).

Sarfaraz' leadership era also saw the emergence of several future stars, including Babar Azam, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Hasan Ali, Imam-ul-Haq, Faheem Ashraf, Fakhar Zaman and Shadab Khan, whom he backed at the start of their international careers.

Sarfaraz Ahmed led Pakistan to historic triumph in the ICC Champions Trophy, beating India



by 180 runs in the final at the Oval in England. With that victory, Sarfaraz became the first Pakistani captain to win the Champions Trophy and the only captain till date to win ICC titles at both junior and senior levels, having earlier led Pakistan to win in the ICC U19 Cricket World Cup in

2006 in Sri Lanka.

In recognition of his services and the Champions Trophy triumph, Sarfaraz Ahmed was awarded the Pride of Performance in 2018, becoming the youngest Pakistani captain to receive the honour.

Talking about his individual



records, Sarfaraz has the Pakistan record of 10 catches in a Test match, which he took against South Africa in Johannesburg 2019. He is till date only Pakistan wicketkeeper-batter to score an ODI century at Lord's which he scored against England in 2016.

Sarfaraz who played his first

international match (ODI) in 2007 made his last international appearance in an international match (Test) against Australia in Perth in 2023.

Sarfaraz Ahmed "It has been the greatest honour of my life to represent Pakistan. From leading the U19 team to a world title in

2006 to lifting the ICC Champions Trophy in 2017, every moment in Pakistan colours has been special. I am grateful to my teammates, coaches, family and the fans for their unwavering support throughout my career.

"Captaining Pakistan across all formats was a dream come true. I always tried to play fearless cricket and build a united team. Seeing players like Babar Azam, Fakhar Zaman, Hasan Ali, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Shadab Khan and others grow into match-winners during my captaincy is one of my proudest achievements.

"I would like to thank the Pakistan Cricket Board for the trust they placed in me over the years. Pakistan cricket has always been very close to my heart and I will continue to support the game in every possible way.

Questions Raised Over Police Encounters and Drug Menace in Hyderabad

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

HYDERABAD: Recent police encounters in Hyderabad, coupled with the growing concern over the spread of narcotics in the city, have sparked a wider debate among citizens, civil society groups and legal experts. While the police describe these actions as necessary measures against criminals and drug peddlers, several questions are being raised regarding transparency and the legal process.

Members of civil society and local residents say that if those killed in the encounters were indeed involved in criminal activities or drug trafficking, they should have been arrested and presented before a court of law. According to them, due legal procedure and a transparent trial would not only ensure justice but also remove doubts and suspicions surrounding such incidents.

At the same time, concerns are also being voiced about the

increasing spread of drugs in the city. Social activists point out that the issue of narcotics in Hyderabad is not new and has existed for several years. Over time, they say, the problem has expanded beyond certain neighbourhoods and has become a broader social concern.

Some community representatives claim that reports of drug use have even surfaced in educational institutions, which they describe as an alarming development for society. They argue that if narcotics have become such a serious problem, an important question arises: how are these substances entering the city and reaching citizens in the first place?

Legal experts say that under

the Constitution and the law, suspects must be arrested and produced before courts, where cases should be decided on the basis of evidence. They maintain that strong investigations and effective prosecution are essential for achieving lasting results in the fight against crime.

Police officials, however, maintain that actions against criminal elements are being carried out strictly in accordance with the law. According to the police, encounters occur when suspects resist arrest or open fire on law enforcement personnel. Authorities also state that operations against narcotics networks in the city are ongoing.

Observers believe that transparent inquiries into the spread of drugs and recent encounter incidents could help bring facts to light and strengthen public confidence in law-enforcement institutions.



Newborn Allegedly Loses Genital Organ Due to Circumcision Malpractice in Gujrat

Anwar Chohan

GUJRAT: A tragic incident has come to light in Devona Mandi, District Gujrat, where a newborn baby allegedly lost his genital organ due to severe medical negligence during a routine circumcision procedure. The child's father has appealed to Prime Minister of Pakistan Shehbaz Sharif, Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, and the Head of UNICEF in Pakistan to take immediate notice of the incident, ensure strict punishment for those responsible, and provide urgent assistance for the child's treatment.

According to the child's father, Muhammad Rafiq son of Shafiq Mirza, a resident near the Railway Crossing, Post Office Pasco Devona Mandi, District Gujrat, his son Muhammad Asim was born on August 31, 2025. On October 1, 2025, following the advice of a local resident Dr. Akram Muhammad Zaman, he took his newborn son to Ramzan & Safdar Poly Clinic, Devona Mandi, for circumcision.

He stated that Dr. Akram Muhammad Zaman assured him that the clinic had a qualified surgeon, Dr. Hafiz Muhammad



Ehtisham, who would perform the procedure safely and professionally.

According to Muhammad Rafiq, the baby was taken into the operation theatre and after approximately 25 to 30 minutes, when the child was brought out, his genital organ had been severely damaged. He alleged that Dr. Akram Muhammad Zaman and the clinic staff attempted to conceal the seriousness of the situation, applying dressing and ointment while assuring the family that everything would be fine.

As the child's condition deteriorated, the family immediately rushed him to Children's Hospital Lahore, where doctors examined him and informed the family

that severe negligence during the circumcision had badly damaged the tissues and blood supply of the organ.

The child was admitted to the Pediatric Surgery Ward on October 13, 2025, and after further examination on October 17, 2025, doctors declared that the organ had become gangrenous, leaving them with no option but to remove it.

According to the affected family, the child's complete treatment is not possible in Pakistan. A hospital in Germany has assured the family of possible treatment, however the process will require German visas, travel arrangements, and complex medical procedures costing millions



of rupees, which the poor family cannot afford.

The child's father Muhammad Rafiq has appealed to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, and the Head of UNICEF in Pakistan to immediately take notice of the tragic incident, ensure strict legal action against Dr. Hafiz Muhammad Ehtisham, Dr. Akram Muhammad Zaman, Ward Boy Shahzaib, and the management of Ramzan & Safdar Poly Clinic, and provide urgent financial and official assistance for the child's treatment abroad.

Climbing the Iran War Ladder

Continued from Page 4

roughly a 50-55 percent probability of determining the outcome, Israel around 30-35 percent, and Iran barely 10-15 percent. The reasoning was simple: overwhelming airpower, technological superiority, and intelligence dominance would quickly dismantle Iran's military capacity.

After the war has entered into its third week, many strategic observers now estimate that the United States retains roughly 40-45 percent influence over the ultimate outcome, Israel about 25-30 percent, while Iran's strategic position has risen to roughly 25-30 percent due to its ability to internationalize the consequences of the conflict. In essence, the war has evolved into two parallel contests: a tactical war dominated

by American and Israeli military power, and a strategic war in which Iran attempts to raise the economic and geopolitical cost for its adversaries and the global system.

One of the greatest casualties of the conflict is the credibility of the international rules-based order as a result of a gradual shift toward a world governed less by international law and more by raw geopolitical power. Smaller states increasingly fear that they may become targets if they lack strong alliances or military capabilities. Arms races accelerate, mistrust deepens, and regional conflicts risk cascading into broader confrontations.

The Iran war therefore represents more than a regional crisis. It is a defining moment for the emerging global order. Whether diplomacy eventually prevails or escalation

continues will shape not only the future of the Middle East but also the credibility of the institutions designed to preserve international stability.

For now, the battlefield remains active, the diplomatic channels remain fragile, and the outcome remains uncertain. What is clear, however, is that the war has already reshaped the geopolitical landscape—revealing the limits of military power, the resilience of national identity, and the profound risks of a world drifting away from international cooperation toward the harsher logic of power politics.

The writer is Press Secretary to the President (Rtd), Former Press Minister, Embassy of Pakistan to France, Former Press Attaché to Malaysia and Former MD, SRBC. He is living in Macomb, Michigan.

Teaching in Diverse Classrooms...

Continued from Page 4

Instruction personalizes: kinesthetic for active, visuals dyslexics, audio dialects. Universal Design Learning (UDL) multimodal: captions videos, flexible assessments (oral projects).

Training shifts: Punjab CRT workshops (months-long) engagement soared; KP inclusive certification dropout halved. Peer buddies resolve clashes; councils elect diverse reps. Tech democratizes: Duolingo languages, Canva multicultural posters, Zoom breakout dialect groups. Partnerships: PTAs crowdfund ramps/aides, elders share folklore. Models: minority mentors inspire; gender-mixed teams. Curricula evolve: heroes diverse (Abdul Sattar Edhi, Malala alongside Arfa Karim), interfaith assemblies. Reflection journals interrogate biases weekly. Restorative circles heal conflicts culturally.

Provincial beacons. Punjab Lahore pilot: grade 4 CRT folktales/history, engagement grades +25%. KP mainstreaming: aides' sensory tools, retention +20%, bullying -30%. Baloch girls' safe spaces confidence +40%. Sindh Rohingya-Bengali bilingual aides' integration. Private beacons: Beaconhouse inclusive exported public; Roots tribal immersion.

Policy pivots: HEC mandates diversity pre-service; NEP equity audits. Successes scale partnerships NGOs (UNICEF ramps), corporate CSR (Telenor tablets).

Hurdles loom: training reach tiny, resources scarce (no dialect books), cultural resistance ("discipline softens"). Biases persist untrained. Scale demands investment, mindset shift.

Diversity mastery elevates pedagogy. Challenges forge adaptability; biases beg bravery; breakthroughs beckon brilliance. Pakistani classrooms, mosaic

mastered, birth compassionate cosmopolitans. Educators, future architects, pioneer inclusion - posterity applauds.

Ultimately, teaching diverse classrooms demands a paradigm of profound empathy, relentless adaptability, and unwavering commitment to justice, transforming potential chaos into symphonies of shared growth. Pakistani educators, standing at diversity's crossroads, hold the power to shatter biases, conquer challenges, and pioneer breakthroughs that not only educate but elevate society. By embracing every voice as vital, they cultivate generations equipped for a harmonious, innovative Pakistan - where differences fuel progress, not division. The classroom revolution starts today; its echoes will shape tomorrow.

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Cancer: The Silent Threat – Early Detection and Global Innovations in Diagnosis

Continued from Page 4

have played vital roles in advancing cancer diagnosis and treatment in the country. Their contributions have strengthened Pakistan's oncology landscape and improved patient care nationwide.

Pakistan's Expanding Network of Cancer Hospitals

Over the past decades, Pakistan has developed a network of reputable cancer treatment institutions. Among the most prominent are Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital and Research Centre, Indus Hospital Cancer Centre, Aga Khan University Hospital, Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre, Mayo Hospital Lahore, Shifa International Hospital, and Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS).

A remarkable national success story is the network of Atomic Energy Cancer Hospitals run by the Pakistan Atomic Energy

Commission. These hospitals provide advanced cancer diagnosis and treatment services either free of cost or at highly subsidized rates. Important institutions in this network include NORI Islamabad, KIRAN Karachi, IRNUM Peshawar, LINAR Larkana, NORIN Nawabshah and PINUM Faisalabad. These centers have served hundreds of thousands of patients across Pakistan.

Nawaz Sharif Cancer Hospital – A Landmark Public Initiative

Another inspiring development in Pakistan's healthcare landscape is the Nawaz Sharif Institute of Cancer Treatment and Research in Lahore. This modern public sector cancer facility represents a major step forward in providing free and accessible cancer treatment to underprivileged patients.

Under the leadership of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam

Nawaz, the Punjab government has launched major reforms to upgrade public hospitals and expand specialized healthcare services across the province. The Nawaz Sharif Cancer Hospital stands as a symbol of these efforts, offering state-of-the-art medical facilities and modern oncology services to patients who previously had limited access to treatment.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz's health sector initiatives are widely regarded as exemplary and visionary, particularly her focus on strengthening public hospitals, expanding healthcare infrastructure and ensuring that modern treatment facilities reach marginalized communities. Her government's commitment to improving healthcare services is helping thousands of patients receive timely diagnosis and treatment.

Alongside institutions such

as Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital, Indus Hospital Cancer Centre, Aga Khan University Hospital, and Shifa International Hospital, Sir James Lyall Cancer Hospital & Research Institute, The Nawaz Sharif Cancer Hospital represents another important pillar in Pakistan's expanding cancer care system.

Faisalabad's Growing Role in Oncology Care

Faisalabad has also emerged as a key regional hub for cancer treatment. The Oncology Department at Allied Hospital Faisalabad, operating under Faisalabad Medical University, continues to provide critical services to patients from across central Punjab.

Under the leadership of Dr Zafar Chaudhry, Vice Chancellor of Faisalabad Medical University, the institution is strengthening medical education, research, and clinical oncology services.

Prof. Dr Muhammad Tahir Bashir, Head of the Oncology Department at Allied Hospital Faisalabad, is widely recognized as an inspiring national oncologist whose dedicated services and professional leadership are significantly contributing to improved cancer diagnosis and treatment in the region.

Similarly, PINUM Faisalabad, part of the Atomic Energy Commission's cancer hospital network, continues to provide basic oncology and nuclear medicine services.

Role of the Private Healthcare Sector

Private hospitals have also contributed significantly to cancer treatment in Pakistan. Institutions such as Hameed Latif Hospital Cancer Centre, Shifa International Hospital Cancer Centre, Aga Khan University Hospital Oncology Centre, Faisalabad Cancer Center Faisal

Hospital Faisalabad and Sir James Lyall Cancer Hospital & Research Institute in Faisalabad, a modern 400 bedded facility, are expanding access to specialized oncology care for patients who can afford private treatment.

Strengthening the National Response

Healthcare experts believe that Pakistan must further strengthen its National Cancer Control Program. A comprehensive national strategy focusing on prevention, early screening, research and training of oncologists is essential to address the growing cancer burden.

Expanding diagnostic facilities, improving public awareness, and investing in medical research will play a critical role in strengthening Pakistan's fight against cancer.

A Message of Hope

Cancer may still be a silent threat, but the global fight

against the disease is gaining strength every year. Advances in early detection technologies, improved treatment methods and stronger healthcare systems are saving millions of lives worldwide.

Pakistan's expanding network of cancer hospitals, dedicated oncologists and growing policy focus on healthcare reform offer strong reasons for optimism. With continued investment, effective national policies and public awareness, the country can significantly reduce the impact of cancer.

The message is clear: early detection, innovation and collective national commitment can transform the fight against cancer and bring hope to millions of patients.

The writer Former Professor and Head Department of Entomology, University of Agriculture Faisalabad, Pakistan

Meeting

Karachi: President Asif Ali Zardari meeting Federal Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control Mohsin Naqvi and Chairman MQM-Pakistan Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui on Sunday.



Photo: PID

MQM's Khalid Maqbool meets President Asif Ali Zardari

City Desk

KARACHI: MQM Chairman and Federal Minister Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui called on President Asif Ali Zardari on Saturday, according to sources.

Sources close to the development said Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah, Sindh Interior Minister Ziaul Hassan Lanjar and others were present in the meeting.

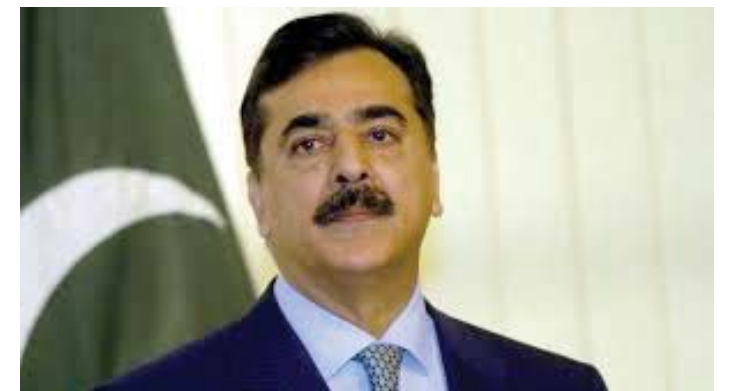
The leaders discussed relations

between the PPP and the MQM. Earlier, the MQM said the federal government did not take the party into confidence to change the governor.

It should be noted that the federal government removed Kamran Tessori and replaced him with PML-N leader Nehal Hashmi as Sindh Governor.

A statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif sent the summary to the President of Pakistan for the approval.

Gilani meets Syed Javed Ali Shah, Mehrin Razzaq Bhutto



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani Sunday met with Members of the National Assembly Syed Javed Ali Shah and Mehrin Razzaq Bhutto at the Chairman Senate House.

During the meeting, they discussed in detail on the overall political situation in Sindh, public issues, and various development-related matters. They also exchanged views on the organizational activities of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), the party's public outreach campaign, and ways to further strengthen and activate the party at the grassroots level.

The leaders reaffirmed their

commitment that the party leadership and elected representatives would continue to work collectively for the resolution of public issues and the promotion of democratic values in the country. Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani stated that the Pakistan Peoples Party has always struggled for public service, the strengthening of democracy, and the stability of the federation.

He emphasized that all elected representatives must further intensify their efforts to ensure the welfare of the people and the development of the country. Matters of mutual interest and the overall political situation in the country also came under discussion during the meeting.

Iran has data showing U. S., Israel launching attacks on regional states – Iranian FM

Xinhua

TEHRAN: Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi said Tehran has information the United States and Israel are launching attacks from certain locations against Arab states in the West Asia region.

He made the remarks in an interview with pan-Arab news outlet Al-Araby Al-Jadeed, parts of which were published Sunday, questioning the origin of attacks on regional Arab states that have been blamed on Iran. Araghchi said Iran is ready



to meet with regional states and form a joint committee to investigate the nature of the attacked targets.

Iran's strikes only targeted U. S. bases and interests in retaliation for attacks launched from those sites,

he added.

Araghchi said the United States has developed a drone similar to Iran's Shahed 136, named "LUCAS," to target locations in Arab countries.

He also accused Israel of targeting Arab civilians to sabotage their relations with Iran, adding, "Iran has not targeted any civilian or residential areas in the region so far."

Meanwhile, Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps said Sunday that a recent drone attack on Riyadh region and the Eastern Province in Saudi Arabia was not

related to Iran, according to the semi-official Fars news agency.

Also on Sunday, the Iranian Foreign Ministry said Araghchi spoke by phone Saturday night with his French counterpart Jean-Noel Barrot to discuss the regional situation.

Araghchi said the United States and Israel are the sole causes of insecurity in West Asia and the Strait of Hormuz, calling on all countries to condemn the "aggressors' criminal act" of attacking Iran and avoid escalating the conflict.

Shujaat, Ulema pay tribute to Pak Army for successful operation against Khawarij

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A 20-member delegation of Ulema and mashaihs led by Chairman Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Pakistan Maulana Abdul Khahir Azad met with former Prime Minister Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain.

Provincial Minister for Auqaf and Religious Affairs Chaudhry Shafay Hussain and General Secretary of Pakistan Muslim League (PML-Q) Tariq Hassan were also present in the meeting held at the residence of the former Prime Minister.

In the meeting, tributes



were paid to the Pakistani army for the successful operation against Fitna-al-Khawarij and Fitna-al-Hindustan.

The attack by America and Israel on Iran was strongly condemned in the meeting.

Ulema said no agenda and

conspiracy of the enemy will be allowed to run in Pakistan and the entire nation stands with the Pakistan Army.

They said the solution to the challenges and problems facing the Islamic world lies in unity and solidarity.

Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain

is an asset of Pakistan and we are very happy to meet him, Ulema said.

They said Chaudhry Zahoor Elahi Shaheed and Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain always pursued politics of nobility, tolerance and public service. Chaudhry Shujaat

Hussain's immortal services to Islam and Pakistan. Every section of Pakistan has a deep affection for Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain and prays for his health.

Talking on the occasion, Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain said Ulema play a key role in establishing a peaceful society and promoting national unity.

The delegation included Maulana Hafiz Asad Obaid, Allama Qazi Abdul Ghaffar Qadri, Syed Ashiq Hussain Shah, Allama Zubair Ahmed Zaheer, Allama Muhammad Rashid Turabi, Hafiz Kazim Raza Naqvi and others.

CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif Launches Climate Leadership Development Internship Program

Bureau Report

LAHORE: In her Facebook message, Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif shared a good news for the youth by launching Climate Leadership Development Internship Program in the province, under which interns will be given Rs. 60,000 per month.

She added that 50% of the internship slots are reserved for female students, and interns will also receive an internship certificate from the Government of Punjab after 3 months. She highlighted that Climate Leadership Development Internship Program provides an opportunity for representation from the relevant district purely on merit.

Chief Minister Punjab said that through Climate Leadership Development



Internship Program, obtaining UNESCO certification will be possible, and it will also provide an opportunity to learn about state-of-the-art

Learning Management System. She added that Climate Leadership Interns will also be able to gain experience in working with officers of Environmental

Protection Authority and Environmental Policy Unit.

She underscored that online application facility is available for the Climate Leadership Development Internship Program, through which youth can apply by March 29th at epd.punjab.gov.pk/climateinternship.

She stated that they will welcome participation of young people in the mission to improve environment, as every young person can play a significant role in improving environment through Climate Leadership Development Internship Program.

She noted that by the grace of Allah Almighty and through day and night hard work, environmental pollution graph is going down in Punjab, especially in Lahore.